

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State
Department of Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
Westminster
London SW1P 3BT

Tuesday 16 April 2013

Dear Mr Gove,

We welcome this opportunity to respond to the Government's Review of the National Curriculum. The Music Publishers Association ("MPA") is the trade association for music publishers in the UK, with over 260 members. Our members include all three of the UK's major music publishers, independent pop publishers, classical publishers, production music publishers and also printed music publishers.

For many of our printed music publishers, the provision of innovative, world renowned publications and related materials is at the heart of their business. Leaders in this field include ABRSM, Faber Music, Music Sales and Oxford University Press. These publishers produce a wide range of products, including textbooks, sheet music, CDs and downloads, each one tailored to meet the wide ranging requirements a school has for music materials.

Our members have been encouraged by recent announcements from the Department for Education. We welcome the decision to abandon the EBacc measure and hope that the proposed introduction of the "Best 8" measure at Key Stage 4 will encourage schools to continue with high quality teaching of arts subjects to GCSE level. This will offer students the opportunity to study a subject rich in transferable skills which could lead to a rewarding career in one of the UK's biggest and most culturally significant industries.

The new National Curriculum programme of study for Music has also been well received by the music publishing community. There are some areas, however, which we feel need to be strengthened in order to provide a more balanced and relevant curriculum. The suggestions we make below should not only improve the general provision of music in schools, but will also better prepare those children who wish to study music beyond Key Stage 3 or who wish to pursue a career within the music industry.

- 1. Contemporary/living composers:** The proposals at Key Stage 2 refer to the study of "great musicians and composers". This could be interpreted very narrowly and lead to students only experiencing a very few composers in the Classical tradition, which in our view is a step backwards. We would like to see a curriculum that guides teachers to include an exploration of contemporary, living composers and broaden the proposed repertoire of study to genres such as film music, pop, jazz and world music.
- 2. Intellectual property:** We are concerned that the current programmes of study for arts subjects at Key Stage 3 do not include the basic principles of intellectual property and copyright. We would strongly encourage you to look at introducing these concepts at Key Stage 3, given that intellectual property is the mechanism by which creators and composers are paid for their endeavours and illustrates how the creative sector contributes to the UK economy.

Music Publishers Association Limited

A: 6th Floor, British Music House, 26 Berners Street, London, W1T 3LR

T: 020 7580 0126 F: 020 7637 3929

E: info@mpaonline.org.uk W: www.mpaonline.org.uk

Registered in London no. 140248

3. **Music technology:** We would like to see music technology explicitly included within the programme of study at Key Stage 3. Music technology gives children the freedom to explore sound, aids with composition and can encourage collaboration. An introduction to the basics of music technology is also vital for a child who may wish to pursue a career in the music industry.

4. As a more general observation, we would be interested to know how the Department of Education intends to equip generalist teachers with the requisite knowledge to teach certain aspects of this curriculum. We are particularly concerned that teachers with no specialist training, particularly at Key Stage 2, will struggle to deliver some of the more technical aspects of the programme of study for music, such as staff notation and more advanced areas of composition. With school budgets tighter than ever, we fear that professional development for arts subjects will be frozen or cut, at a time when teaching staff may in fact require greater access to training than ever before.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Butler".

Chris Butler
Chairman, MPA

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen Navin".

Stephen Navin
Chief Executive, MPA